

The Sweet Briar News

VOL. I.

Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Virginia, Wednesday, December 7, 1927.

No. 10.

OFFICE OF THE NEWS OCCUPIES HISTORIC SITE

The home of the Sweet Briar News has seen many other faces and scenes before it came to harbor the office of the publications of Sweet Briar. Its former occupants would be very much surprised if they returned and saw it as it is today. Probably Mrs. Williams herself would be astounded at the spectacle it presents.

As one sees it now, it is a small green shabby back of Sweet Briar House. On the inside, the walls are whitewashed and on the floor is checked linoleum and a large rug. The furniture consists of a large table in the center of the room; a flat desk, property of The News; a roller-top desk, property of the Briar Patch; an old fashioned writing desk used by The Brambler, and an old book-case where exchanges are filed. It is modernly equipped with electric lights and steam heat.

Formerly, the heat for the Cabin came from a large fire-place on one side of the room. The first occupant was Logan Anderson, an old negro man who was one of the care-takers of Sweet Briar House in Mrs. Williams' time. Another occupant, later on, was Bob Rucker, a successor of Logan Anderson, who lived there with his small son.

Then Mrs. Williams fixed the house up as a typical old Virginia cabin, and it remained like this until after her death. In it were a spinning-wheel and a wax wheel, large soap pot, candle molds and many reminders of the anti-bellum days. A huge sound in which, salt was being hung on the wall and ropes for making ash cakes were kept there too. Mrs. Williams had an old-fashioned kitchen over the fire-place, and whenever she wanted ash cakes they were prepared over the open fire. A string of red paper which hung on the wall the year round, added a touch of color to the scene. One interesting thing in the Cabin was a brass plate warmer, about two feet high, having racks for the plates. In order to warm them it was set very close to the stove or fire-place. There were three home-made chairs there also—the whole scene giving one a typical picture of an old Southern work-room as it had been in the time of Mrs. Williams' mother.

Since then the Cabin has probably housed other families but their names have been forgotten in the busy life that goes on around Sweet Briar. Even until three years ago some one lived in it. When it was prepared for the office of the Sweet Briar News, it was to undergo a thorough cleaning to make it habitable, as it had been used for a storeroom for some time.

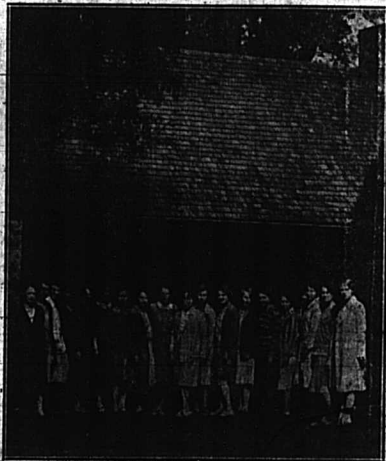
Surgeons Attend To Trees

Tree surgeons from the Davey Tree Expert Company of Kent, Ohio, are here this week doctoring the trees about campus.

The only tree that is receiving real surgical attention this year is the Elm at the end of the walk towards Sweet Briar House just before it crosses the road. The other trees are only being trimmed.

Tree lovers will be sorry to know that the great white oak at the end of the road is to receive no more attention because its condition is such that it would only mean the waste of a great deal of money to try to save it. It is to be left undisturbed for the remaining years of its life.

THE NEWS STAFF FOR 1927-28.



Song Contest Announced Awards Made in Spring

A contest for the composition of class and college songs is to take place in the spring. The college song leader, Lisa Guggen, is inviting interest in this by announcing the rules and regulations:

1. All Sweet Briar students are eligible to compete.

2. Songs will be judged for the quality of the words and music.

3. Original music will be given preference, and no copyright music can be used without permission of the publisher.

The best college song will be selected by a committee and will be sung by the Glee Club which, together with the Student Government Association, is sponsoring the contest.

At the same time each class will present a new class-song, the best of which will be chosen by the popular vote of the audience.

NOTICE

There will be three regular length class periods on Saturday, December 17th. This means that classes will be over by eleven o'clock.

The special will leave Sweet Briar on Saturday, December 17, at 11:45 a. m. and will reach Washington at 4:05 p. m. It goes on to New York, after reaching off the Special sleeper for Cleveland and Chicago.

Friday, December 16th, Representatives of the Southern Railroad will set up a ticket office in Mr. Dew's office to sell the tickets and reservation which are being signed up for all during this week.

Do you ever realize when you buy a scrambled egg sandwich or a chocolate marshmallow sundae at the Tea House, that you are adding to the scholarship fund which the Inn maintains? Between \$1000 and \$1200 are given in scholarships every year.

Paint and Patches Will Present "The Patsy"

On Friday night, December 9th, the new members of Paint and Patches will present "The Patsy," Barry Cameron.

This is a light sparkling comedy, the lines of which are particularly witty. The cast is composed entirely of new members in the club, and the scenery is taken care of by Charlotte Whitney. Also a new member, Paint and Patches is very proud to have this opportunity of presenting its new talent.

Cast: Bill Harrington, Betsy Embrey, Mary Wm. Harrington, Grace Harrington, Alfreda Borge, Billy Caldwell, Mary E. Swift, Tony Anderson, Evelyn Claybrook, Saile Buchanan, Mary Niece, Francis O'Flaherty, Mary Robinson, "Trap" Dusty, Jean Cole.

Christmas Carol Service To Be Sung December 11th

The traditional Carol Service given each year by the choir, will be Sunday night, December 11th, in the chapel.

The decorations of the church and the red and white robes of the choir will add to the beauty of the occasion.

This year the music will be particularly lovely. Miss Wainwright, the director, has searched for Christmas music missing before at Sweet Briar with the result that the program contains some very charming selections.

The first five numbers on the program, which is as follows, have never been sung at Sweet Briar: "Christmas Song," Gustav Holst, "A Dream of Christmas," Gustav Holst, "Bring a Torch Jeannette, Isabelle," Old French Carol, "I Saw Three Ships a Sailing," "The Infant Christ," Peter Cornelius, "We Three Kings of Orient Are," "Good King Wenceslaus," "Holy Night, Silent Night," "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

ALUMNAE SECRETARY REPORTS ON TRIP THROUGH MID-WEST

Mid-western hospitality cannot be surpassed! Everywhere the alumnae who attended the gatherings on my recent trip gave me a warm welcome. It mattered not whether they were academy girls, specialists, former college students or graduates—all were keen to renew their memories of Sweet Briar of yesterday and to learn of Sweet Briar of today.

Many was the wee grandchild of Sweet Briar I met who is duly bound to land some day on this campus! The alumnae are looking forward eagerly to meeting with the under-graduates of their home towns on Sweet Briar Day, December 28th.

The alumnae were informed of our present academic rating with the A. A. U. W., of the campus as it now is and of future plans for its development; of the approaching Endowment campaign, its organization, and the responsibility of the Alumnae of the Board of Overseers; of the Alumnae Association, its present condition, its needs, its activities of the place of an Alumnae in college life; and of the urgent need of Alumnae Clubs.

I visited first in Pittsburg where I spent the night at the home of Martha Longberg '24. Twenty-two were present.

In Cleveland Dr. Glas, en route to Cincinnati, was present at a tea given at the home of Kathryn Klump '27. Because of the presence of Dr. Glas there was unusual enthusiasm at this meeting.

In Toledo, Pauline Payne, '27 made a delightful hostess. Tea was held at the home of Mrs. Rachel Floyd Hight '19. Detroit, Ruth Whitely '27, was hostess. A tea of the Woman's Club resulted in the information of an Alumnae club with Elsie Morley, '27, president and Martha Coss Page, '26, secretary and treasurer.

In Indianapolis the club includes all who are Indians. A luncheon bridge had been held the day before my arrival, but I met a few at a luncheon at the Columbia club. In Chicago Helen Hazeltine, '26, was my hostess. The Alumnae met for luncheon in a private dining-room at Marshall Field's.

In Milwaukee Mary Reed Harshorn, '25, was responsible for the gathering. The Alumnae met at the college club and organized with Mrs. Harshorn as president and Ida Bues as secretary and treasurer. Quarterly meetings were planned.

The Twin Cities Club comprised Minneapolis and St. Paul. The Alumnae formed their club with Jerry McGiffert MacLennan, '25, president and Mary Norvell Payne Milner, secretary and treasurer. Genevieve Black, of Duluth was there and promises to start a similar group in her home city on December 28th.

In the Tri-Cities of Davenport, Moline, and Rock Island I found the alumnae so united by family bonds that their meetings are almost daily. A nominal club was formed though no regular plan was made. Eleanor Harney Arp '24, and Dodee von Neve, Crampton '24, each proudly displayed a cunning grandchild of Sweet Briar.

In Kansas City "Carey" Woodworth's mother played the charming hostess to me. The group met at the Athletic club for an early tea and organized with Mrs. Dorothea Cohen Ball as president and Bettie

(Continued on fourth page.)

MRS. BARRETT EXHIBITS WORK IN ART STUDIO

The Studio has its full coloring in an exhibition of Mrs. Barrett's oils and water colors. Every spring and autumn she sends a collection of her paintings to Sweet Briar and it is her gift that, while the works are for sale, the college should have first enjoyment of them. The scenes depicted are, in the main, those of neighboring woods, or are views of the mountains so familiar to every one. There are a few sketches of scenes abroad taken from places where Mrs. Barrett traveled and painted summer before last.

While Sweet Briar likes to claim her as its own particular artist she has wide recognition. Her water colors have been exhibited in Washington, Baltimore and New York. Partly by their popularity with the students here, her paintings are found all through the east.

Eric Randall Roden, our recent lecturer, felt their charm and purchased one of the pictures now exhibited here, even though he was not so familiar with their natural counterpart in our woods and hills. The training for the execution as displays was gained partly by study in the Art Student League of New York and partly abroad. Mrs. Barrett is of the modern school and her work creates an impression without minute observance of detail.

Originally from New York state Mrs. Barrett moved to Virginia about fifteen years ago and now lives within sight of the college and continues to paint largely for the joy of working and from true appreciation of the beauties of the section.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY:
12:00 p. m. — Convocation.
Dr. Edwards' "The Lighter Side of Student Life in College."
7:00 p. m. — Choir Practice. Chapel.
7:30 p. m. — French Club Bridge Party.
8:00 p. m. — Dress Rehearsal of Play. Chapel.
FRIDAY:
Chapel. Mr. Scott.
8:00 p. m. — "The Patsy." — New members of Paint and Patches. Chapel.
SATURDAY:
9:00-9:00 p. m. — Freshman Tea for Juniors. Reid.
8:00 p. m. Drive Movie.
SUNDAY:
7:30 p. m. — Christmas Carol Service. Chapel.
MONDAY:
7:30 p. m. — Classical Club.
7:30 p. m. — Glee Club Rehearsal. Chapel.
8:00 p. m. — Minstrel Rehearsal. Chapel.
TUESDAY:
7:00 p. m. — Minstrel Rehearsal. Chapel.
7:30 p. m. — Tau Phi.
WEDNESDAY:
4:00 p. m. — Ensemble Rehearsal.
7:30 p. m. — Minstrel Rehearsal. Chapel.
9:00 p. m. — English Club — Sweet Briar House.

Friday, members of the faculty, and music majors, had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Lewis Richards, the American Harpichord Artist at a tea in Forum. Field parlor given by the Committee on Lectures of which Miss Miriam Weaver is chairman.

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Athletics

Sophomores' Gain First Points Towards Banner.

Now that the hockey, and Fall Archery seasons are over, it is well to take account of how the classes stand in the competition for the class banners.

This banner is awarded at the end of the year to the class having the greatest number of athletic points acquired in the different sports throughout the year.

Not only do winning teams decide which class wins a certain sport, but also the number of people out for the sport from a class in proportion to the size of the class. This percentage is added to the points gained by the class team, winning ability and helps tremendously towards the winning of a sport.

The Sophomores have won first place in the 1927 hockey season, thereby obtaining 100 points towards the banner. It has not yet been computed to which classes go second and third places.

The Seniors are winners of the Fall Archery tournament, receiving 40 points.

Everyone should remember that just by coming out for a sport she helps her class towards the class championship.

Red and White Teams Play First LaCrosse Game.

The first LaCrosse game was played last week between the Red and the White. The Red won 7 to 5.

The fact that this game was played speaks well for the fascinating new sport which is just getting started here at Sweet Briar.

The teams were composed of freshmen mostly, but Miss Rogers, Miss Goresky and the Head of Hockey also participated. The teaming improved as the game progressed. It is hoped that LaCrosse can be kept up during the winter, intermittently, as the weather permits, so that, by spring, those who are interested will have the technique as second nature.

No Coasting Down Infirmary Hill

Dr. Harley requests the girls not to coast down the steep path in front of the Infirmary. There is a gutter of rocks at the foot of the hill, and a spill there might result in fractured skulls. In order to prevent such direful consequences Dr. Harley has barricaded the walk with infirmary furniture — for "decorating the snow".

Basketball Practice Starts.

Now comes the ball in athletics, but not for long. The past week has been taken up with finishing up 6th, 7th and 8th team hockey games. The coming week will find the troops turning their interest towards the indoor game, basketball.

This sport gets started this week and although games will not be played 'till after Christmas, there will be chances for the ever-needed preliminary practices.

Those who must struggle with dancing and corrective work will be glad to hear that times will be arranged when they can play basketball, too.

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Harpisichord Recital Offers Unique Pleasure

Lewis Richards gave a very enjoyable Harpischord Recital at Sweet Briar on Friday, December 2nd. Mr. Richards is head of the Music Department at the Michigan State College, East Lansing, Mich. For the last six weeks he has been on a concert tour, and from Sweet Briar he went to Detroit where he played Sunday with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

The program, which follows, was a particularly charming one:

Program: Handel Gavotte and Musetta Bach From English Suite in G Minor Prelude and Fugue in C Minor From Well-Tempered Clavichord Book 1, No. 2.

The Harmonious Blacksmith Handel A Gigue (Dr. Bull's My Selfe) From the Fitzwilliam Virginal Book

John Bull Gaillarde to the Fifth Pavan From My Lady Nevell's Book. The Brook

Manuscripts from the Library of the Society of Ancient Instruments of Paris

Twelve Hills From the Fitzwilliam Virginal Book

Pastorale Varice Mozart Arabesque Schumann Gossel at the Spinning Wheel

Rondo Manuscripts from the Library of the Society of Ancient Instruments of Paris

Musette en Rondo Rameau Gigue Desmarets

Manuscripts from the Library of the Society of Ancient Instruments of Paris

Gavotte Manuscripts from the Library of the Society of Ancient Instruments of Paris

The Cuckoo Duple March Mozart

Mr. Richards' very interesting program was made more so by his explanations of the origin of the harpischord and of the composers whose work he played. He illustrated clearly the contrast between the thinking tones of the harpischord and those sonorous tones of the piano. Mr. Richards' technique on the harpischord as well as on the piano was admirable. His interpretation of the works of the classic composers on the instrument for which they were written was fascinating. Mr. Richards' playing was enjoyed by a very appreciative audience.

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The Ballad Of A Misplaced Ditch

On Sunday last, amid a gale of piercing cold and slashing hail, A horrid ditch got covered o'er With snow and ice and then some more.

All unsuspicious the Doctor came, (That hidden ditch was all to blame)

He stalled— He stuck— Such bally luck!

He did not stop long alone, Three husky Janitors came, unknown

Came rushing up to show their grit, And greatly did he welcome it.

The Tea House lent a hurlyp-bug, To take the place of his wet rug.

All heaved— All heaved— All heaved— No luck at all!

While one bright lass the car did guide, The others pushed from the rear.

Then with a bound the deed was done, And up the hill the car did run.

"Greatly obliged," he murmured low, "I'll take you for a ride, you know."

On some nice day," the Janitors said, "Oh, damn the ditch!"

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Merediths To Be Placed In Future College Library

The librarians are finding most interesting work between the more "needed" books of the library, in the listing of the titles composing the Collection of George Meredith, the handsome request of our former professor Dr. Elmer James Bailey, who died in 1926.

A great effort is being made to make a sufficiently definite list to compare with other collections.

(Continued on fourth page.)

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History Club Visits "Poplar Forest"

On Wednesday November 23rd, the members of the History Club made a trip to "Poplar Forest," the charming old home of Thomas Jefferson, situated just outside of Lynchburg. It is now owned by Mr. Hutter of Lynchburg, who with his daughter, Miss Claudine Hutter, a former professor at Sweet Briar, so kindly showed the Club through the house and over the grounds. The house was built by the Hutter family just two years after Jefferson died, and in 1828 it will have been in the family just 100 years.

It has been the custom each year for the History Club to select some period or phase of history on which to make a detailed study. At the beginning of this year the members decided that it would be of particular interest to them to inquire into the early history of Virginia which is so rich in historical lore, and particularly the history of the territory surrounding Sweet Briar. The sources for such a study are vast. Piedmont, Virginia, is a field hardly touched as yet by the historian. It's history becomes infinitely more vivid to us when we uncover for ourselves a bit of human history—a portrait, or piece of furniture.

"Poplar Forest," planned and built by Jefferson was, in a sense, his summer home. In his letters he says that it was a place of refuge from the crowds which thronged to Monticello. Among his varied belongings which have been preserved is a fascinating old table, a product of Jeffersonian ingenuity. Its top is built in two layers with the very top layer revolving so that instead of having to reach across the other side to get something he had merely to swing it around with no effort at all. The house is octagon-shaped, red brick with the white pillars in front, so characteristic of Jeffersonian architecture. Set way back in the hills, it was an ideal spot for peace and quiet, for which he longed, that his guests might not be bothered by interruptions from the outside world.

Miss Wainwright Advocates Cultivation Of Voice

"The Voice in Speech and Song," was the topic discussed by Miss Wainwright at Convocation Thursday. Miss Wainwright urged that "A" speech as well as "V" posture, be made a Sweet Briar ideal.

The advantages of a charming voice, were contrasted with the handicaps of an unpleasant one. Incorrect usage, and bad habits cause most of the difficulties in speaking as well as singing, but these can be overcome by self-criticism, vigilance and training. After a brief discussion of the vocal mechanism, Miss Wainwright devoted the few remaining minutes to answering questions from the floor.

For those who care to see her personally about their individual voice difficulties, Miss Wainwright has posted a paper on Fletcher bulletin board on which all may sign up for appointments. She will be glad to test voices and give advice where it is needed.

Alumnae Secretary Reports On Trip Through Mid-West

(Continued from first page.)

Meriwether Benson, ex-'24, secretary and treasurer. They plan to have monthly meetings.

In Louisville Mrs. Ida Walker Castner, '18, held a buffet lunch at her home. Elizabeth Cox, '27, was elected president and Catherine O'Bannen Calp secretary and treasurer. This group decided on quarterly meetings.

—Kay Norris.

Mrs. Carter To Talk On Chinese Culture

Mrs. Thomas F. Carter, lecturer on Chinese culture, writes that following the response made by Sweet Briar as indicated in the last issue of The News, she will be able to make her plans to come to Sweet Briar in late February or early March, to give to us her series of lectures as advertised in last week's paper.

Since the printing of the paper last week the following have added their names to the list of supporters: Professor Connor, Misses Gay Patteson, Dorothea Faddock, Anna Terian, Betty Hibbs, Katy Cox, Hulda Williams, Professor Long, Misses Dorothy Davis, Christine Revgoldt, Gertrude Prior, Professor Weaver, Misses Amelia Hollis and Helen Weltman and Professor Randall. All of the subscribers are called to attend a brief meeting to be held in the chapel at seven o'clock on the evening of Thursday, December 8th. There will be a few matters the planning of which will interest all supporters, which must be settled before the vacation, and that is the purpose of this meeting. It is hoped that every present subscriber will bring a new subscriber with him to this meeting.

Sir Rennell Rodd Lectures

Sir Rennell Rodd, who lectured at Sweet Briar November 30, is a distinguished personage in the diplomatic service of his country. For thirty-seven years he has rendered foreign service in many and varied parts of the world. Thus his career is interesting and noteworthy.

"Diplomacy, Old and New," was the subject of his lecture. He discussed diplomacy itself, that is, what it means; he contrasted the old and the new diplomacy; he cited the attitude for a diplomat to adopt and the stumbling-blocks he is destined to encounter; he emphasized the need for well-trained men who expect to enter the field of diplomacy. Diplomacy deals with the question as to how the relations of different countries can be most satisfactorily conducted. Sir Rennell Rodd mentioned as valuable and pertinent the aspect of diplomacy viewed by Walter Hines Page, "the real secret of diplomacy is courtesy, courtesy, and again courtesy."

The Congress of Berlin marked the climax of the old epoch of diplomacy. short time past, the gaining facility of news, the administration of international affairs is characterized by openness and publicity, whereas, formerly, diplomats worked in secret, behind closed doors.

The diplomatic requirements of tact and expedition imply that there shall be a competent observer, with a discriminating nature. He must study and appreciate the sentiments of the people with whom he is living and he must try to discern their viewpoints. Above all, his attitude must be constantly sympathetic; never critical. He must overcome the language barrier, die the loss of sight of the human feeling among the people. Thus, he must know and understand the precise value of using the correct words, and he must never reveal a gesture of impatience. Finally, a diplomat must have very special training such as few other careers will demand.

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College Group Plans A European Trip

Every year some Sweet Briar girls spend the summer abroad, enjoying such a vacation as gifts from "the family" upon graduation.

This year a number of girls are already making plans and the suggestion has been made that nothing could be nicer than seeing strange and, unknown places with old and familiar friends. In other words to make up a tour with Sweet Briar students as a nucleus to which might be added members with similar interests from other colleges.

Last year Dr. Connor, who has lived abroad for a year and a half, conducted a party consisting of fifteen Vassar students with one of their professors, from Glasgow to Rome and from Munich to Biarritz, and it would seem that a similar Itinerary would be suitable for next summer's party which will be conducted by him under the management of the Students' Travel Club of America. Miss Fraser, who has accompanied many another Sweet Briar party on pleasure trips, has been asked to organize and chaperone such a group from here, and is considering it very favorably. Such students of the college who are interested should talk the matter over before the holidays in order to have definite details and literature for vacation discussions with their families before college re-opens in January.

Meredithiana In Library

(Continued from third page.)

notably the Library of Congress and Wellesley College, repaid to have a collection of which they are very proud. Dr. Bailey, a scholar and well acquainted with the value of rare editions, and with years of enthusiastic search for everything pertaining to his collection, claimed that his was the best—whether or not, in fact, we have yet to determine, having no catalogue. Unfortunately, Next week we will publish the number of volumes ascertained at that time, but the value of the collection appears to lie not so much in the number as the rarity of the volumes.

The housing of such a collection adds yet to our interest in the future library, plans for which are being gathered now. Any suggestions which our alumnae care to send us will be gratefully received at the Library.

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Bridge Tournament Being Held For The Drive

A five dollar purse is offered by the Drive as a prize for a Bridge tournament which is to be played off by Christmas vacation. A card has been placed on the Gray bulletin board where entrants should sign up immediately with their respective partners.

As soon as the list is filled a ladder will be posted giving the order in which the rounds are to be played. Each round will consist of the winning of two out of three rubbers. The result of each set should be reported to Sally Reahard, 252 Randolph. Also the fee of \$.50, which goes to the Drive fund, should be paid here at the same time.

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